

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR RO PO

SUBJ: ROMANIAN MEDIA AND LEADERSHIP ON PORTUGAL

REF: BUCHAREST 4191

1. IN VIEW OF CEAUSESCU'S REPORTED ANGLING FOR LISBON VISIT
(REFTEL), FOLLOWING ROMANIAN PRESS AND LEADERSHIP COMMENTARY
ON PORTUGAL MAY BE OF INTEREST.

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2. MOST RECENT AUTHORITATIVE EDITORIAL (SCINTEIA AUG 21) IS NOTABLE FOR ITS OBVIOUS CONCERN AT DETERIORATING SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AND ITS PLEAS FOR UNITY AMONG "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES, BUT PARTICULARLY BETWEEN COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS. THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE IS CITED AS THE FOUNDATION OF REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS IN PORTUGAL, THE MAINTENANCE OF WHICH IS DEPENDENT UPON THE "UNITY OF ACTION OF THE WORKING CLASS, AND OF THE COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST PARTIES". EDITORIAL LAMENTS, HOWEVER, THAT "IN THESE DECISIVE MOMENTS FOR THE DESTINY OF THE COUNTRY" THE TWO PARTIES HAVE NOT ACTED TOGETHER; A FACT WHICH HAS "NEGATIVELY INFLUENCED THE COURSE OF EVENTS" AND FROM WHICH ONLY "REACTIONARIES" BENEFIT. IT WARNS THAT CURRENT ATTACKS AGAINST COMMUNISTS (WHICH ARE BEING FACTUALLY REPORTED ON A REGULAR BASIS IN ROMANIAN PRESS) ONLY PRESAGE FURTHER REACTIONARY OFFENSIVES AND URGES ALL PROGRESSIVE FORCES PUT ASIDE THEIR DIFFERENCES AND STRENGTHEN THEIR UNITY IN FACE OF "CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL REACTION". EDITORIAL CLOSES WITH STRONG STATEMENT, CITING CSCE FINAL ACT, OPPOSING FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS, WITHOUT SPECIFYING WHERE SUCH INTERVENTION MIGHT COME FROM (AS DID THE SOVIET AND OTHER EE PRESS WHEN THEY ACCUSED WEST OF DIRECT INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS RECENTLY).

3. SAME EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR "UNITY OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES" AND "NO FOREIGN INTERVENTION" WAS EVIDENT DURING AUGUST 18 CALL ON RCP SECRETARY IOSIF UGLAR BY EMBOFFS AND TWO MEMBERS OF CODEL ALBERT. UGLAR SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT PROHIBITION ON NON-INTERVENTION SHOULD ALSO EXTEND TO ANY UNDUE INFLUENCE ON PART OF FOREIGN PARTIES. HE FELT MILITARY WAS KEY TO SITUATION AND THAT IT WAS THEIR DUTY IMPOSE UNITY UPON SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS, WITHOUT WHOSE COOPERATION, "REGARDLESS OF WHICH HAD RECEIVED MAJORITY OF VOTE", PRESENT DIFFICULTIES COULD NOT BE SOLVED. HE REFUSED COMMENT ON WHETHER PCP WAS PURSUING POLICY OF "ADVENTURISM" AND HAD MISJUDGED OBJECTIVE CONDITIONS, BUT DID OPINE THAT MANY OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS WERE RESULT OF "PERSONALITY FACTORS".

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4. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF PAST EXPERIENCE AND ODDS TO CONTRARY, ROMANIANS CLEARLY INTEND TO CONTINUE ADVOCATE A POLICY OF CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS. CEAUSESCU, ALWAYS WILLING TO PLAY THE MEDIATOR NO MATTER WHAT THE DISPUTE, MAY FEEL THAT AS A COMMUNIST LEADER WHO HAS MAINTAINED GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIALISTS, HE IS IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO PRESS HOME THIS MESSAGE; HENCE, THE REPORTED ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE THE LISBON STOP-OVER.

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